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MI TSUKAI

A SEMI-ANNUAL RECORD OF THE LIFE AND WORK
OF THE COWLEY FATHERS IN JAPAN

St. Michael's Monastery. Oyama, Tochigi Ken, Japan, 323
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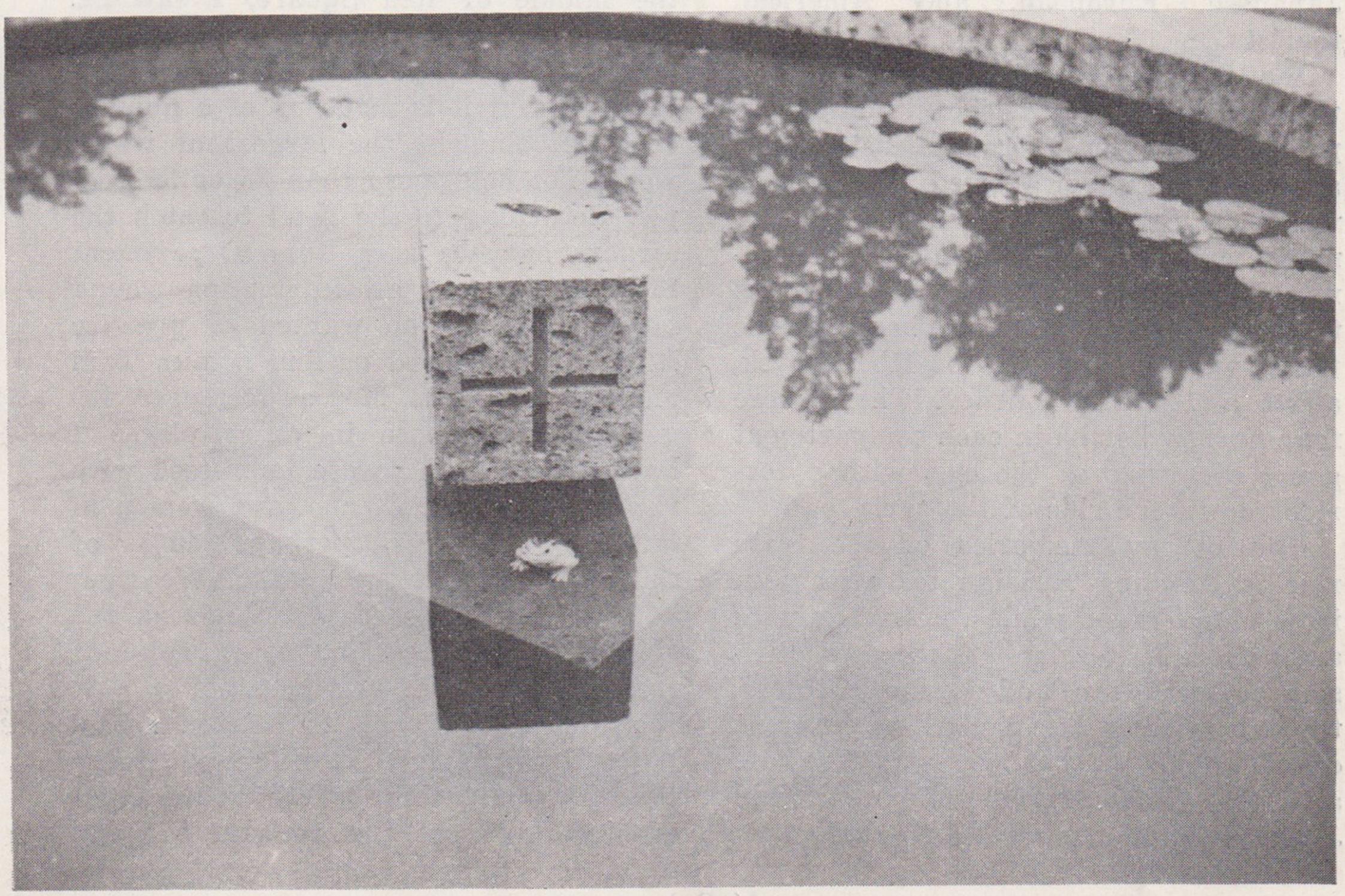
SUMMER, 1970 **No. 58**



Pool at St. John's House

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KANGAE

(Thoughts from the Father Provincial)

This time, because I have been out of Japan on furlough for the first half of the period covered, most of my remarks will be on my impressions of travel through parts of Siberia, Moscow, England, and America, which would not properly come under the heading of "Community Notes".

I sailed from Yokohama on December 8, having been driven there by one of my former English Students, Yoshio Nishiyama. During the three days aboard the Russian ship "Baikal" I was able to make a number of acquaintances with Japanese, European, and American tourists.

We landed at the port of Nakhodka on the afternoon of the 10th, and after passing a rather thorough customs inspection we were allowed to enter a waiting room where we could exchange money and buy refreshments and souvenirs. From there we were taken by bus to the station where we boarded the train which took us to Khabarovsk, about a 15 hour journey. There were four narrow berths in each compartment going crosswise of the car, with a corridor down one side of the car.

One of my memories of the train ride is drinking Russian tea with jam in it at midnight while conversing with a young half-Russian Japanese, a Russian business man, and the conductoress, three languages being used in different combinations, since I speak no Russian, and the Conductoress could speak no Japanese, and only a little English.

At Khabarovsk our party split up, the greater number of us transferring to Aeroflot, the Russian Airline, while a few continued to Moscow by train. During our flight we were in a constant sunset most of the way. Because of fog we had to go on to Leningrad instead of Moscow. After a four hour wait we were flown to Moscow for a further wait, finally arriving at our hotels at about 2 o'clock a.m., Moscow time, about 24 hours after we had gotten up on the train to Khabarovsk.

Because of our late arrival in Moscow we could not do as much sight seeing as some may have wanted to do. I was able to see parts of downtown Moscow from a bus taken in the wrong direction; then, just at noon, Red Square and the changing of the guard at Lenin's tomb. After lunch with about 12 of those with whom I had travelled, met by chance in the middle of Red Square, I saw St. Basil's Cathedral (now a museum) which is unlike the other great cathedrals in that it is made up of a number of small chapels, the largest of which would not hold more than 25 or 30 people. Returning to the hotel to catch the airport bus we saw Gum Department Store, then met an interesting young music student who wanted to practice English and helped us find a taxi. Taxi and bus fares in Moscow compare favorably with those in other places I have travelled. We were impressed with the large number of men and women in military uniforms, perhaps 40% of those we saw on the streets. We were amused at the ice cream stands on the sidewalk near Red Square in spite of freezing December weather.

It was good to get to London again. After three days at St. Edward's House I went to Oxford for 9 days at the Community House of the Society. I found

the spirit of community life as strong as ever, and soaked it in as one soaks in the warmth in a Japanese bath. My time in England was too brief to allow the sort of travelling I had done on previous visits. My main purposes for being there were accomplished just by living in community for that period, and having the opportunity for talking about current thinking and other matters with various members of the English Congregation.

I flew to Boston on Christmas Eve, leaving Oxford mid-morning, and taking off from London Airport at 1:00 p.m.; arriving in Boston at about 2:00 p.m. local time, where I was met by Fr. Clayton and Bro. Bernard, and was at the Monastery in Cambridge well before tea time.

During the seven weeks spent at the American Mother House in Cambridge there were numerous opportunities for learning of the various trends in current American thinking. I was one of the representatives of the Society at the installation of Bp. Burgess as Diocesan of Massachusetts. Illustrated talks on our work in Japan were given at several places in the Boston Area.

On the day after Ash Wednesday I flew to San Francisco, where I spoke at several churches in the Bay Area, and at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and saw a number of friends and relatives. An interesting experience was a visit to the headquarters of "Next Step, Inc.", an organization for counselling those who are contemplating leaving the ministry or the Religious Life. The Rev. David Sass, one of the directors, was a year behind me in seminary, and was glad to have the opportunity for explaining the purposes of their organization to someone in the Religious Life who is *not* thinking of taking such a step.

My visit to San Francisco was followed by a few days at my sister's house near Portland, Oregon, and nearly three weeks with my parents in Spokane, Washigton, where I spoke several times on our Japanese work and on the Companion Diocese relationship between Mid-Japan and Spokane, conducted a young people's retreat, and saw many friends.

After two days in Seattle, where I gave a Lenten address on "The Meaning of the Cross" at St. Peter's Church (where the congregation is mostly of Japanese descent), I flew back to Japan, arriving at Haneda Airport on the evening of March 20th, exactly according to plan.

The value of contact between the various parts of the Church throughout the world becomes ever clearer as I reflect on my travels and my experiences along the way. This was reinforced by the remarks of the Rev. Bartholomew Takeuchi at the April meeting of the Anglican Missionaries in the Tokyo Area at which he spoke on the need for a missionary policy in keeping with the present age, not only in the Japanese Church, but also in those other parts of the Church which have sent missionaries to Japan. Fr. Takeuchi pointed out that we need the challenge of being confronted by other cultures, and that this is true not only in the countries to which missionaries are sent, but also in the countries from which they are sent. It is his hope that some missionaries may be sent out to various parts of the world by the Japanese Church. This could lead to further mutual growth in the Japanese Church and in the Church in other parts of the world.

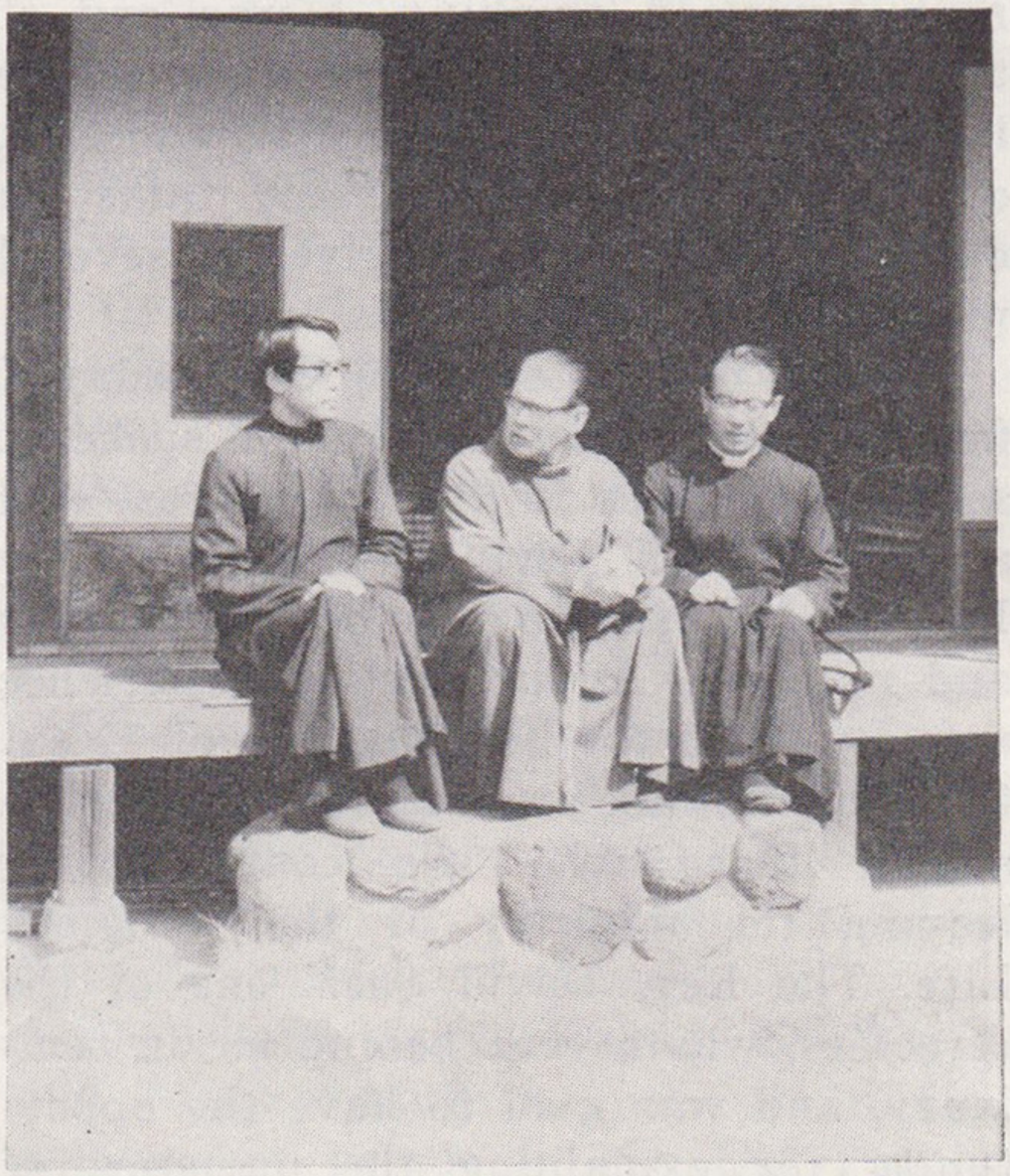
One of the problems discussed at the meeting of American Missionaries of

the Seikokai held in Tokyo on May 28 was the reduction of financial aid to the Japanese Church by the American Church. This is partly the result of the decision of the American Church to deal first of all with some of the pressing problems in America at the present time. But it is also, apparently, the result of decreased giving on the part of American Church people, who fear that money given to the National Church is not being wisely used. It is not up to us in Japan to judge that, but we can suggest that there are ways of contributing directly to work overseas. It is significant that there has appeared recently in the *Seikokai Newspaper* an article by a layman of the Tokyo Diocese urging the people of the Japanese Church to give more generously to their own Church as aid from the American Church is reduced. The cost of living in Japan has increased tremendously in the last decade, yet people's giving to the Church has not changed. ¥1,000 was a generous offering a few years ago. Now it doesn't go nearly as far to pay expenses. We are thankful that some of our contributors have realized that fact. But we fear that there are others who just don't realize that the Church and its many organizations have to pay the increased prices for things just the same as anyone else. We want to urge you all to think about this, and to pray about it, and, if possible, to speak up when opportunities present themselves to influence others to be more realistic in their giving, too; and also, perhaps to influence those in positions of importance in the various National Churches and Missionary Societies of the Anglican Communion to be more realistic about the needs of the smaller Provinces and missionary areas of the Church.

D.E.A.

ECUMENICAL RELIGIOUS LIFE GROUP

Until this year, during the past three years the Ecumenical Religious Life Group, consisting of three Anglican, three Roman Catholic, and two Lutheran Religious, with one other Protestant with an interest in the Religious Life, and on a few occasions a Japanese Russian Orthodox bishop, has met at various monasteries of the members of the group, or at related church conference centers. The group has met to discuss various topics related to the Religious Life and the Ecumenical Movement. At the last meeting of 1969 there was some discussion of future plans, including a shift of emphasis away from seminars and discussions toward a quarterly sharing of community life. This idea was dis-



Fr. Sato, Fr. Pacificus, SA, and Fr. Oyama at Ecumenical meeting.

cussed more thoroughly at the meeting held January 13–14 at the retreat house of the Society of the Atonement at Kugenuma near Enoshima (south of Yokohama). It was decided that for the time being, at least, the group should continue to meet at the Kugenuma Retreat House, if possible, four times a year, and concentrate on the common life of worship, preparing meals, some study and discussion, and perhaps some form of pastoral work, such as visiting in a nearby hospital and old people's home.

Fr. Noah Sato, of our Society, is translating the Rule of the Taizé Community into Japanese for the group to study and discuss. It is hoped that a simple Rule of Life, perhaps influenced by the Taizé Rule, can be developed for use during the quarterly meetings of the group, and as an enrichment of the daily life of each member of the group. This would include a promise to pray daily for the unity of the Church.

COMMUNITY NOTES
ST. MICHAEL'S MONASTERY

Because Fr. Allen was busy with preparations to begin his furlough early in December, and also because he had already attended three consecrations of bishops, and the blessing of the Kelham Fathers' Kobe Priory during the previous six months, Fr. Oyama and Bp. Viall represented the Society at the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Paul Toyohiko Kubobuchi as the new Diocesan of Kyushu on December 2nd. Fr. Oyama was also able to visit our Associate, Fr. Andrew Yamada, at Naogata, Kyushu, who hopes to try his vocation in the Society in the near future.

On December 11 word was received that The Rt. Rev. Timothy Shinzo Nakamura, retired Bishop of Tohoku and our oldest Associate in Japan, was in critical condition, and it was desired that one of the Fathers of the Society visit him at the Spellman Hospital in Sendai, where he had been since mid-November. Fr. Oyama took a night train, and soon after his arrival annointed Bp. Nakamura with the Sacrament of Holy Unction. The old Bishop was almost unconscious, but he aroused at the sound of Fr. Oyama's voice, and said "*Arigato, arigato*" (thank you). As his condition seemed to improve Fr. Oyama returned to Oyama that day. On the 16th Bp. Nakamura died, and Fr. Koizumi and Bp. Viall attended his funeral on the 18th. May he rest in peace.

Fr. Koizumi gave a talk December 21 to the parents and children at the Hanna Sawarabi Gakuen, a home for severely retarded children related to Haruna-So, located farther up the mountain, on the meaning of Christmas. He was at Haruna for Christmas and the following festivals. On Christmas Day he baptized nine old people at the Keisenen Charity Home. The next day he baptized another five old people at the Ikoi-no-Sono Special Nursing Home. On the 29th he conducted a Candle Service for about 30 members of the staff of the Sawarabi Gakuen.

Fr. Oyama went to Nikko for a Christmas Carol service and Eucharist on the night of the 24th. About 80 attended. Special prayers were said for benefactors of that church, especially for the health of Miss Nellie McKim, and for the repose of the soul of Miss Earnestine Gardiner. He celebrated a delayed Christmas Eucharist at Ashikaga on the 28th, which was followed by a Christmas party.

Members of the SSJE after the Provincial Retreat, April 10.
Back: Fr. Koizumi, Bro. Peter, Fr. Viall, Fr. Allen, Fr. Rowell, and Fr. Thomas.
Front: Fr. Oyama and Fr. Sato.

There were a number of Student guests during the winter months, one of whom stayed from December 28 to January 5, and helped Fr. Oyama and Bro. Peter celebrate the New Year. Fr. Koizumi, as he has for the past few years, visited his family, and friends at that time.

One of the guests during January was a student from the Lutheran Theological College in Tokyo who has been under the spiritual direction of the Rev. Francis Shiraishi, one of the Lutherans who belongs to the Ecumenical Religious Life Group in which our Society also participates. Tamura-san, the Lutheran student, has an interest in the Religious Life, and hopes to be able to become a member of the small Lutheran Franciscan Community founded by Pastor Shiraishi. Retreats are rare in the Lutheran Church in Japan, so his visit to our monastery was a rewarding experience.

Fr. Oyama, together with Fr. Sato from St. John's House attended the winter meeting of the Ecumenical Religious Life Group January 13-14 at the retreat house of the Society of The Atonement at Kugenuma, a little way south of Yokohama. Only five members of the group were able to attend that meeting, and only four attended the next meeting, April 15-16. Various factors, including the expected absence of Fr. Pacificus, S.A., during the summer months, brought about a decision not to meet again until September or October.

Fr. Koizumi visited St. John's Church, Kanazawa, on the West Coast of Japan, on January 15, to speak on the work of the Society and on our Associates' Rule to a group of catechumens and other young people of that parish.

Fr. Oyama assisted the Rector of the Church at Utsunomiya at the funeral of his uncle on January 24.

On March 8 Fr. Oyama spoke at a Lenten service of the Saitama Deanery of the Kita-Kanto Diocese at Christ Church, Kawagoe. Later in the spring one of the young man of that church brought two of his friends for a five day visit to the monastery.

Fr. Koizumi baptized three students of the nursing school at Haruna-So on March 22, and Fr. Allen baptized one resident of the Shunkoen Old People's Home on Easter Day, the 29th.

Fr. Allen returned to Oyama on March 23, after his three and a half month furlough. Together with Fr. Oyama and Bro. Peter he attended the Ryomo Deanery Good Friday service at Utsunomiya.

During the absence of the Rev. Mat-

thias Sato on a visit to the Holy Land, Fr. Koizumi and Fr. Allen took services at the Church at Shimodate on Easter and Low Sunday, respectively.

A Retreat for the members of the Japanese Province of the Society was conducted by Fr. Thomas of the English Congregation of the Society April 6-10. Fr. Thomas spent most of the month of April in Japan on his way to visit friends and relatives in America and Canada. This was the second visit of a member of the English Congregation to Japan since the Society has been here. Fr. Rose, who died this past January, spent the better part of a year in Japan in 1954-55, and is well remembered by many of those whom he met. It is regretable that we cannot have more visits from members of the other Congregations of the Society, but in all parts of the Society there are things which keep the Fathers and Brothers busy.

On the 11th of April Fr. Thomas accompanied Fr. Allen to Haruna for the weekend. Because of the late spring they were able to view the cherry blossoms in Ueno Park when they went to Tokyo on the 13th. Some years the cherry trees bloom towards the end of March, and we had been afraid Fr. Thomas, who had never been to Japan before, might miss them. Fr. Allen also took Fr. Thomas to visit some to the shrines and Temples at Kamakura on the 24th. From the 18th to 21st Fr. Thomas was in Sendai, where he preached at the Cathedral, gave a quiet day for the Transfiguration Sisters, and visited the famous beauty spot, Matsushima, with our Associate, Fr. Draper. He flew to America on the 27th by Jumbo-jet.

Members of the Society attended the annual Kita-Kanto Diocesan service held at Maebashi this year on April 29, attended by well over 300.

Fr. Allen, Fr. Oyama, and Bro. Peter attended the annual Solemn Mass and Open House at St. John's House on May 9th. Fr. Oyama was Deacon of the Mass.

Fr. Allen made his spring visitation to the Divine Charity Sister's branch house as Warden May 18-19. While there he saw the new property which is to be the site of the proposed new Convent and Special Nursing Home for old people. He was also taken on a sight-seeing journey into the mountains of Wakayama Prefecture, and a boat ride up the Kumano River. From this he got

Fr. Thomas at Kamakura by the Daibutsu.

a little better idea of the nature of that part of Japan and its people; for geography surely has some effect upon the people who live in the same place for many generations. On the return journey he stopped at Kishiwada, near Osaka, for three days to visit Fr. and Mrs. Mizutani, and to see Expo '70. Recently we received word that Fr. Mizutani was hospitalized at the end of May for brain surgery. Please pray for him.

Fr. Koizumi assisted Bp. Okubo at the confirmation of 18 at the Haruna Church on May 24, most of whom he had instructed.

On May Fr. Allen attended a meeting of American missionaries in Tokyo. Fr. Viall, Fr. Rowell, and Sr. Mariya, C.T., were also in attendance. All of the others attending the first half of the meeting were missionaries appointed by the Overseas Department of the American Episcopal Church. Other missionaries, and Bp. Goto, the Bishop of Tokyo, joined us for lunch and the afternoon session. The purpose of the meeting was to inform members of a special investigation committee appointed by the American House of Bishops, the Rev. Joseph Kitagawa and Mr. Hamilton Edwards, of the opinions of those working in Japan about the present situation, and about the sort of relationship which should exist between the Japanese Church and the American Church. Dr. Heim of the Tokyo Mission Office later expressed gratitude for the participation of the members of the two Religious Communities at the meeting.

At the site for the new Divine Charity Convent and Old People's Home, Iwata: Mr. Fuki explaining about it to Sr. Elizabeth Kondo and friends.

Fr. Allen and Fr. Oyama attended the Kita-Kanto Diocesan Clergy Conference June 1-3. This year, for the first time in several years, the meeting was held outside the Diocese at Hakone, near Mt. Fuji. Interesting discussions on the daily life of the clergy, sex education (following the publication of a symposium on "Free Sex" in a Christian Education magazine), the perpetual diaconate as a possible solution to the shortage of parish clergy, and new methods of Bible study, made it a valuable meeting.

At the time of writing Fr. Koizumi plans to attend an alumni meeting of the Bishop Williams Theological College in Kyoto, June 22-24, with possible speaking engagements enroute.

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE

For the Sunday in the octave of prayer for Unity, 18 January, our Benedictine friends honored us by asking our Society for a preacher. Father Sato was chosen and preached at four Masses, a really strenuous Sunday duty. Our friendly relations with the Bendictine Fathers is of long standing. We hope and pray that it may deepen and grow into an actual ecumenical fellowship.

On January 23rd Father Rowell conducted the pre-ordination retreat for the clergy of Tokyo diocese, held at the

Fr. Rowell and friends of St. John's House at All Saints' Chapel, Rikkyo University.

Convent of the Community of Nazareth, before the ordination to the priesthood of Thomas Adams and Toshiyuki Shirai.

Of many visitors we select a few for special mention. Two young American Navy men, Dave Grinnell and Seth Gray spent some time with us and were generous with their help in many ways. Bishop Lewis, the Bishop for the American Armed Forces, took time on his last visitation before retirement to spend a short time with us. Father Thomas, of the English congregation of the SSJE, spent nearly a month in Japan, visiting our houses and the Convents we serve, giving us a retreat, and sightseeing under the capable guidance of Father Rowell. Out of the blue, so to speak, Major Ballinger, an old friend from St. Martin's, Grant Heights, dropped in while on leave from Viet Nam.

For the Fathers in residence the usual routine has not greatly varied. Each of us has regular Sunday duty; Father Viall at Tachikawa Air Base, Father Rowell at Yokosuka Naval Base, Father Sato at St. Barnabas' Church, Tokyo. Father Viall gave three addresses at a Quiet Day for the women of St. Alban's parish on a Wednesday in Lent. Father Rowell's English classes keep him busy three days a week. Father Sato continues his studies at Rikkyo University.

Our household has undergone some changes and has grown in numbers. Two of our young men have left, one for his new job after graduation, the other to seek wider experience in his understanding of social problems. For a time we had also two other young men living with us while working part time with our good friend, Francis Matsumura, gardner and nursery man. One new student, a freshman at Rikkyo, and another, a first year highschool boy, have come to stay. In April, after his graduation from college, we accepted Francis Koshiba as a guest for three

1969 Christmas party for St. John's House English Conversation students.

months. He comes to get knowledge of the religious life with the possibility of becoming a Postulant. He, with another of our guests and Andrew Matsumura, the older son of Francis Matsumura, were confirmed in our Chapel on Whitsunday. At the same time Matthew Matsumura, his younger brother was baptized.

The English edition of the Japanese liturgy is now sold out but there is still some demand for it, especially at St. Alban's Church, the English-speaking congregation in Tokyo. That edition was not a translation of the Japanese but rather a paraphrase in the language of the Prayer Book. Now the Rector of St. Alban's, Father Webber, Father Powles of the staff of the Theological College and Father Viall are working on a translation of the Japanese into modern English. It is an interesting project and, when done, may be of some value to liturgists. We, who are at work on it, acknowledge to ourselves that it may have little popularity with the average congregation. But, if any reader of MITSUKAI is interested, please write for further information.

Thanks to a good deal of volunteer help we were able in the late winter to replace all the gutters and downspouts on the house and to repaint the roofs, a very necessary repair job after ten years. We had also to incur some expense in repairs to our water system. We had hoped to change over from the use of bottled gas to city gas but that seems impossible because of the necessity of changing all the piping. To do that would require tearing up all our floors. The expense and trouble would not be worth the economy of cheaper gas. But one thing we must do is to replace our kitchen range which is more than twenty years old and worn out.

Our annual Solemn Mass and Open House was attended by about a hundred friends and neighbors. We fortunate that the day, May 9th, was without rain,

though overcast. It rained the two days before and again on the following two days.

We were saddened by the sudden death of Chaplain Robert Sloan, Episcopal Chaplain at Grant Heights, on May 17th. He had been with us on the 9th and suffered a fatal heart attack just a week later. The Society has been asked to assist in keeping up the Episcopal services at Grant Heights and Father Viall at the request of Bishop Goto and the Air Force Chaplain will act as coordinator for providing for these services at the Bases.

K.A.V.

COMMUNITY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

The Transfiguration Sisters report the development of the Aoba Jogakuin building in Sendai, formerly a kindergarten teachers training school, into a Diocesan Retreat and Conference Center. A retreat for kindergarten teachers of the Tohoku Diocese was held early in January. In February the Diocesan Clergy used the center for their retreat. Both groups stayed at the Aoba building, but came to the Convent for services and meals. Future plans include a study conference for clergy in June, and a conference of four or five days in August for Sunday School teachers and kindergarten teachers.

In spite of the great distance between Osaka andSendai, Expo '70 has brought a number of people to Japan who have also visited the Convent. There have been British, Canadian, Australian, and American visitors, including an Australian Pavilion hostess, a Religious, and Christians of various Churches, Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran, and so on. Sr. Mariya writes that they used to think they were off the beaten track at Sendai, but now they feel as if they are in the midst of things.

Tohoku Clergy Retreat, Transfiguration Convent, Sendai, February 16–17.

The Statue from Walsingham.

THE COMMUNITY OF NAZARETH

The statue of our Lady of Walsingham, given us by the Sisters of St. Margaret of the Priory of our Lady of Walsingham, reached us safely on the 12th of November. Although it is a gift intended for the new Chapel whenever we may be able to rebuild the Convent, we are already using it in the Chapel, having put it in place of the former statue of our Lady on Christmas day. We are most grateful for this gift and token of our link with the Holy House of Walsingham.

Mother Haruko, Sr. Kayoko, and Sr. Chiyo attended the meeting of Associates of Kansai district at St. Michael's Cathedral, Kobe. Six new associates were admitted. After the meeting the Sisters visited Kobe Priory of the Society of the Sacred Mission.

The first Novice Mistress of our infant community, Sister Thedora, C.E., entered into rest on September 19th, 1969. She had a great love for our Community and always kept us in her prayers. On November 18th a Requiem was said for her in our Chapel at which about fifty of her god-children and friends, graduates of St. Hilda's School, where she had taught, were present.

While spending six months in Japan visiting her family, Miss Katharine Gauntlett came several times to Nazareth. She had a long connection with the Community of the Epiphany in their embroidery work at Truro for nearly forty years. Her visits to us were occasions of great pleasure in the renewal of memories of the English Sisters.

Our friendly contacts with Roman Catholic Sisters have continued. With Sister Iwashita and some others we have paid several visits to reformatories. On February 26th we held an ecumenical meeting at the Convent at which nearly ninety were present. Father John Makoto Takeda celebrated and preached. After lunch the meeting was addressed by Father Joseph J. Spae, who spoke on the desireability of ecumenical contacts at the level of lay participation. He urged the importance of lay pressure upon the hierarchy both for working together in social projects and for the realisation of intercommunion.

The graduation ceremony for the completion of the course in theology which some of our Sisters attended was held at Sacred Heart College on March 10th. Mother Haruko, Sister Chiyo, and the Sisters who completed the course were able to be present on the occasion.

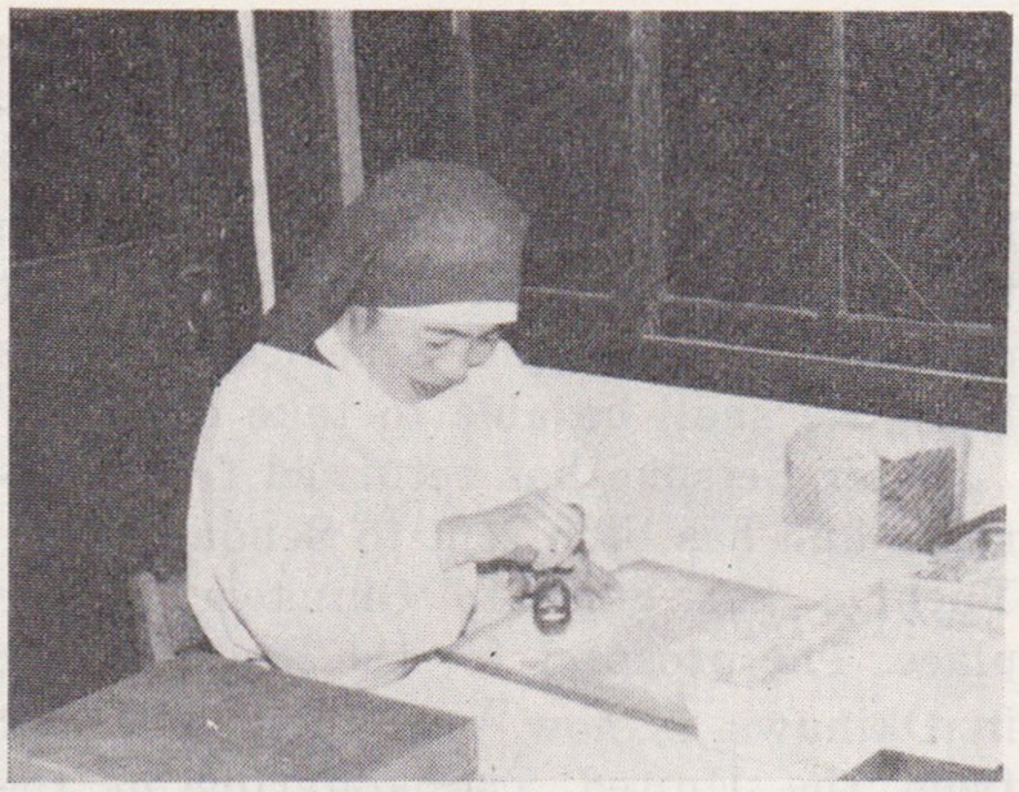
Our Spring retreat was given by

Father Barnabas Yogata, SSM, for about half of the Community. It began at Evensong on March 30th and ended with Mass on April 3rd. The rest of the Community will have their retreat in the Autumn with the Reverend Dom Joseph, OSB, as conductor. The annual retreat for English speaking women was conducted by Father John Lewis, SSM, at the year's end.

Of numerous requests for help from the Community we considered seriously two. The greatest challenge was one from St. John's Church in Sao Paulo and to it the Community gave much prayerful thought. It was decided to accept that challenge but at present it seems that the way is not open to send a Sister because of the immigration regulations of the government of Brazil. The request from Tohoku to take over the work of the Community of the Transfiguration in Sendai is being carefully considered and as a trial one Sister has been sent to Sendai to work with the American Sisters in the hope that next year, when the American Sisters leave we shall be able to take over.

Sister Setsuko has returned from Okinawa and has been sent to Sendai. Sister Yachiyo has gone to Okinawa in her place. The prospect for the new Convent in Okinawa is now very dim. The gift from the United Thankoffering of the Churchwomen of America is inadequate for buying land and a new building for the Nursery School. The plan, therefore, for using the second floor for the Convent can not be carried out. Okinawa is preparing for reversion to Japanese control in 1972 and there are many problems both political and religious

Miss Katherine Gauntlett with Nazare Sisters in Tokyo.



Sr. Asako, CN, cutting wafers with the old cutter.

which cause concern. We ask your prayers for guidance as to the future of the work there.

Our work in the wafer department has been lightened by the gift of three wafer cutters from a Roman Catholic Convent in Spokane through the kind offices of Father Allen's parents. We are most grateful both to the donors and to Father Allen's father and mother for defraying the postage.

M.H.

COMMUNITY OF DIVINE CHARITY

For many years the Convent at Haruna had as its pets a dog named Topsy, of undertermined breed, and a brown and black speckled cat named Kuro (Blacky). Topsy died of old age last spring, a few months after Fr. Kimura's death. Kuro died this past autumn, and was buried near Topsy in a grove not far from the Convent. Last summer we were given a full grown collie by a friend who could no longer keep him. This winter while Mother Theresa was giving him his daily walk he slipped away from her and strayed into the path of a truck and was badly injured. Medical aid was obtained, and it seemed that he might recover, but the shock was too great, and he died. Now we have three members of our household buried in an important little cemetery. This spring we received a new dog, an Akita Hound, from Mr. Hara, the director of Haruna-So, which we have named Leo.

This winter was much colder than usual, and many people were taken ill with severe influenza. Seven people died of that illness at the Haruna-So Hospital. The nursing sisters were very busy. But in spite of that, Easter was celebrated joyfully.

Spring weather was later than usual, perhaps influenced by the winter cold wave. The cherry trees bloomed about two weeks late. At the time of writing the pear trees are in bloom, as well as the azaleas. Scattered among the fresh green leaves on the mountainsides red, white, and pink blossoms can be seen.

After a brief interval of quiet following the graduation at St. Joseph's kindergarten, the air once more resounds with the sound of children's play.

Sr. Hilda Saito graduated from the Ryujo Junior College for Kindergarten Teachers, in Nagoya, in March, and together with her classmate, Mariko Nakajima, they make two new teachers for the kindergarten. Filled with enthusiasm they enrich the life of the kindergarten.

Twelve new students have enrolled in the nursing school. Together with the second year student nurses almost all of them attend Sr. Margaret Hamano's Saturday catechism class.

Bp. Okubo visited Haruna on May 23 and 24 to confirm a class of 18 from among the people in the Old People's Homes and staff members at Haruna-So. Instruction of the staff members

was done by the Sisters.

The Sisters were glad to have Fr. Allen, the warden of our community, back with us for Easter after his three and a half months furlough in England and America. He brought greetings from the mothers and sisters of some of the convents Mother Theresa visited in America year before last.

In April Fr. Thomas from the English Congregation of the SSJE came with Fr. Allen for the weekend of the 11th. At Sunday recreation, after Evensong and Compline, he told of visiting the Sisters of the Oxford Mission of the Epiphany at Dacca and Barisal in East Pakistan, and enjoyed looking at picture post cards of Expo '70 and photographs of our Sisters.

Mother Theresa has been very busy going to visit our distant branch house in Iwata about twice a month. This is a journey of over 9 hours from Haruna.

Last May the Prefecture of Wakayama asked us if we could run a special old people's home there in addition to our kindergarten. Since then we have been searching for a piece of land, and finally found 11 acres overlooking the Tonda River with a view of mountains in the distance. It is in a warm place against the side of a hill, ideal for old people. But in order to have access to it a wide road needs to be built. About $23,000 is needed for that. We are able to get financial aid from the government, but we need to raise an additional $251,000 for building an old people's home for 80 people, and a convent for ourselves.

The founding of special old people's homes has become one of the policies of the Japanese Government. One of the reasons for this is the breaking down of the traditional family system now occurring in Japan, as it has in other parts of the world. Old people who

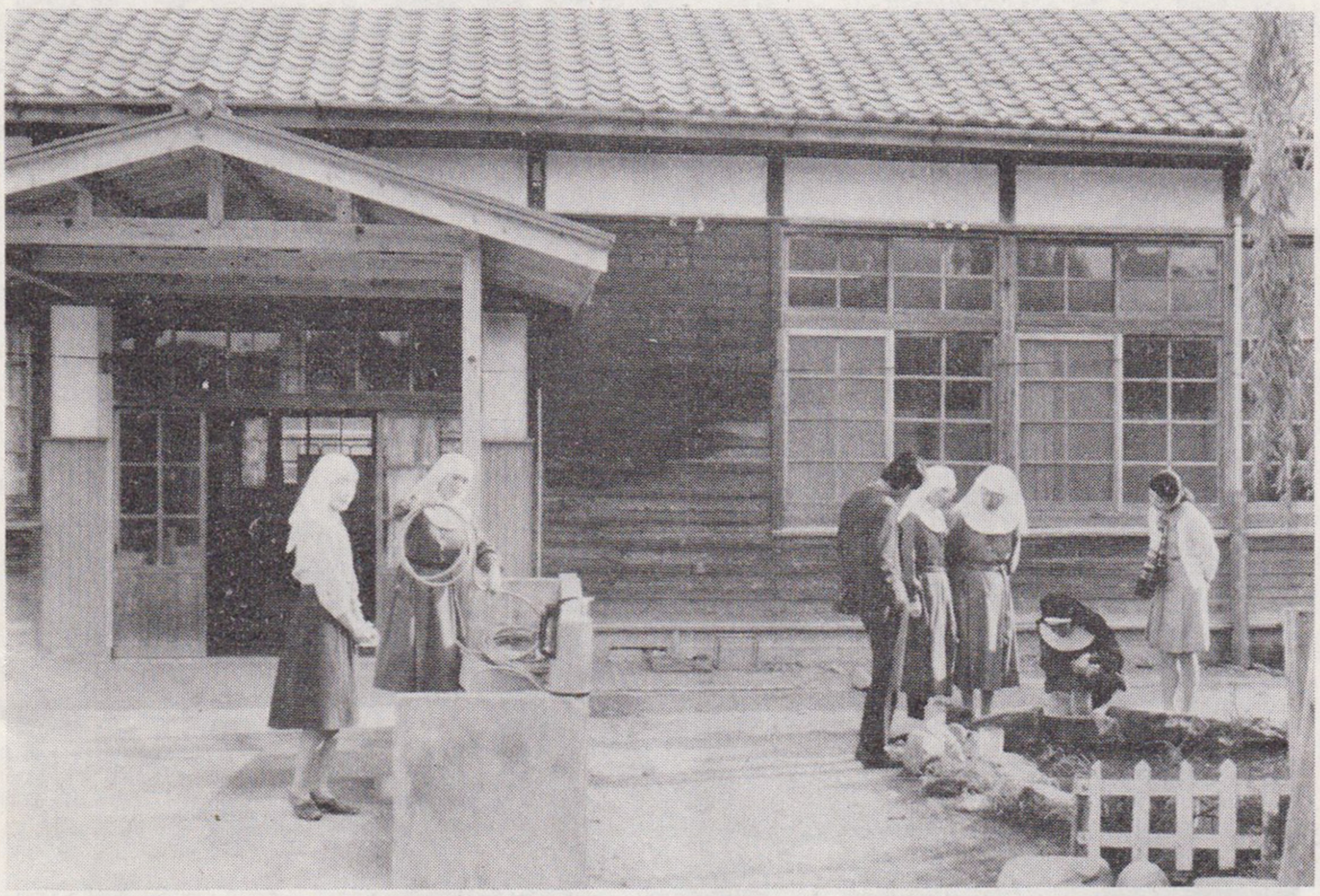
Cemetery for the Sisters' pets, Haruna.

have worked hard to raise their children now find that their children don't want to take care of them in their old age. Every year the number of such old people enduring physical and material hardships increases. The problem of old people whose physical weakness prevents them from being able to settle their own affairs towards the end of their lives is becoming very great. Our concern is not only with the physical care of such old people, but also with giving them joy and hope and leading them to our Lord, so they can wait joyfully to meet Him in the next life.

On May 11th Bishop Yashiro and 13 other backers met at the Osaka Christian Center for the first time to consider our plan for the *Ai no Sono* ("Garden of Love") Special Old People's Home. Because the land had only just been acquired it was necessary to talk about costs of building and related details. After Mother Theresa Fukada's explanation, Mr. Barnabas Hara, Director of Haruna-So spoke about modern day special old people's homes in Japan. Bp. Yashiro has made contact with an excellent architectural firm. The head one of the industrial companies in the Kii Peninsula (where Wakayama-ken is located) told of the promise of donations from within that area. It will be not only the people of Iwata helping, but also the people of Wakayama Prefecture girding up their loins to help the Sisters work for the old people of Japan. Supper together was an amiable meal overflowing with sincerity. God has opened the hearts of many people so that we may proceed with all our strength.

It seems certain now that we can plan on building a special old people's home for 80 people. For that reason we ask the help of all who read this by your prayers, and if possible, contributions.

M.T.F.



Divine Charity Sisters and friends at the Iwata Kindergarten and temporary convent.